

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Application of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY for Authority to Transfer Cushion Gas in its Aliso Canyon And La Goleta Storage Fields to Alleviate the Impact of High Gas Prices on CARE Customers. (U 904 G).

Application 05-10-012  
(Filed October 11, 2005)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING  
REGARDING EXHIBITS AND BRIEFING SCHEDULE**

**Summary**

On March 13, 2006, a telephone prehearing conference was held to discuss whether evidentiary hearings should be held on the remaining issues in this proceeding. The remaining issues are: (1) will non-core customers benefit from the additional gas storage capacity created by the rework of the wells authorized in Decision (D.) 05-11-027; and (2) how the revenues from the sale of the additional 4 billion cubic feet of gas storage capacity should be treated.

At the telephone prehearing conference, the parties agreed that no evidentiary hearings were needed, and that the issues could be submitted with the admission of the prepared testimony of the four parties and certain data request responses, and after briefing of the issues.

Today's ruling identifies and receives into evidence eight exhibits. The ruling also confirms the dates for the filing of opening and reply briefs as discussed during the prehearing conference.

## **Background**

In accordance with the November 7, 2005 scoping memo and ruling, a prehearing conference was held on December 12, 2005 to discuss the procedural schedule for addressing the remaining issues in this proceeding. At that prehearing conference, a schedule for serving the prepared written testimony and responsive testimony was established, and evidentiary hearing dates were reserved for March 13, 2006 through March 15, 2006. The parties were to notify the service list by February 24, 2006 regarding the need for evidentiary hearings. (See December 12, 2005 Reporter's Transcript.)

On February 24, 2006, four of the parties notified the service list by e-mail about the need for evidentiary hearings on the remaining issues. Some of the parties proposed extending the time for deciding whether evidentiary hearings should be held until after the responsive testimony was served on March 1, 2006. In a February 27, 2006 e-mail from me to the service list, I allowed the parties until March 3, 2006 to notify the service list regarding the need for evidentiary hearings.

On March 3, 2006, additional e-mails were served on the service list regarding the need for evidentiary hearings. Two of the parties stated in their e-mails that they be given additional time before deciding if the evidentiary hearings should be held due to data requests that were sent to Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) and to the Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA) as a result of the prepared rebuttal testimony of SoCalGas and DRA.

In a March 6, 2006 e-mail, I granted the request of the parties to hold a telephone prehearing conference on March 13, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the need for hearings after receiving responses to the data requests. My March 6, 2006 e-mail also removed the evidentiary hearing dates of March 13 and

March 14, 2006 from the Commission's hearing schedule, and reserved March 15, 2006 as the date for the evidentiary hearing should it be needed.

In the March 13, 2006 telephone prehearing conference, the parties agreed that they would waive cross examination of the witnesses who submitted prepared testimony if certain responses to data requests were admitted as part of the record in this phase of the proceeding. The prehearing conference also discussed the briefing schedule and submission date for the remaining issues in this proceeding.

As a result of the parties' agreement regarding certain data request responses, Southern California Generation Coalition (SCGC) and Southern California Edison Company (SCE) served copies of the data request responses that they request be admitted into evidence on March 13, 2006 and March 15, 2006, respectively.

### **List of Exhibits**

Since the parties agreed to waive cross examination of the witnesses who prepared written testimony on the remaining issues in this proceeding, I stated at the telephone prehearing conference that the prepared testimony, along with the data request responses that SCGC and SCE request be included, would be marked for identification and received into evidence in a written ruling. The following documents shall be marked as exhibits and received into evidence in this proceeding:

Description	Exhibit Number
Direct Testimony of Steve Watson, on behalf of SoCalGas, dated December 22, 2005.	1
Rebuttal Testimony of Steve Watson, on behalf of SoCalGas, dated March 1, 2006.	2
Direct Testimony of Catherine E. Yap Regarding Disposition of Storage Assets Created by Cushion Gas Transfer, on behalf of SCGC, dated February 17, 2006.	3
SoCalGas Response to SCGC Data Request No. 1, dated March 10, 2006.	4
Testimony of Dr. Michael Alexander, on behalf of SCE, dated January 23, 2006.	5
DRA Response to SCE Data Request No. 1.	6
SoCalGas Response to SCE Data Request No. 3, Questions 3 and 4.	7
Rebuttal Testimony of Ramesh Ramchandani, on behalf of DRA, dated March 1, 2006.	8

### Briefing Schedule

The parties agreed in the March 13, 2006 telephone prehearing conference to waive cross examination of the witnesses and to brief the remaining issues. Since evidentiary hearings are not needed for the remaining issues in this proceeding, the evidentiary hearing date that had been reserved for March 15, 2006 was removed from the hearing calendar. The parties agreed in the

telephone prehearing conference to file and serve their opening briefs on or before April 14, 2006, and to file and serve their reply briefs on or before May 3, 2006. The remaining issues in this proceeding shall be submitted upon the filing of reply briefs on May 3, 2006.

Therefore, **IT IS RULED** that:

1. Exhibits 1 to 8, as identified in this ruling, are received into evidence.
2. Opening briefs shall be filed and served on or before April 14, 2006, and reply briefs shall be filed and served on or before May 3, 2006.
3. The remaining issues in this proceeding shall be submitted upon the filing of reply briefs on May 3, 2006.

Dated March 20, 2006, at San Francisco, California.

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/s/ JOHN S. WONG  
John S. Wong  
Administrative Law Judge

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Administrative Law Judge's Ruling Regarding Exhibits and Briefing Schedule on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated March 20, 2006, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ ELVIRA NIZ

Elvira Niz

**N O T I C E**

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

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